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**THANK YOU LORD FOR:**

## THE CULDEE CONNECTION

May 2023

Published By: Culdee Presbyterian Church  
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Volume 44, Issues: 4  
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## *Striking the Rock*

For a week in March, I served at a meeting of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on examinations. This is the committee of our denomination that creates and administers ordination exams for our pastoral candidates. It's been my privilege to serve on this committee for a number of years. It is rigorous at times, and not always without controversy; but it is also richly rewarding as we are helping to prepare future pastors for leadership in our churches. Each day during our annual meeting, we begin with devotions led by members of our committee. On one particular day, this poem was shared. It touched me so, that I wanted to share it with you. It comes out of a story found in Exodus 17:1-7. Moses bore a tremendous burden of leadership as he shepherded the people God had brought out of slavery in Egypt. Each one of us is a leader in our own setting, as God has called us. May you be blessed in all your godly endeavors.

Connie Weaver, Pastor

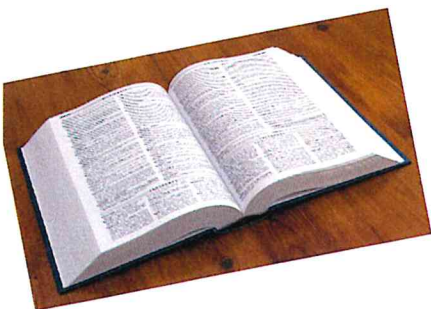
*Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink. Exodus 17:6*

Sometimes  
life will be demanded of you that you don't have.  
Miracles will be asked of you that you can't do.  
Faith will be expected of you that you can't always maintain.  
Hope will be needed, hope you may not have.  
This happens to leaders, happens to parents, to friends.  
Sometimes it happens with your own life.  
Sometimes you will have nothing to offer.  
You won't know what to do, or how to do it.  
You have no idea how to strike the rock.

Strike the rock anyway.  
The power is not in your power,  
not in your strength or skill.  
The unseen awaits in the sanctuary,  
in the holy empty space of your unknowing,  
where you have left room for the Mystery,  
in the shimmering vacancy of your willingness.  
Strike the rock.  
And have a bucket ready.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Following are upcoming sermon texts for worship. Please take time each week to read these passages so you'll be familiar with them on Sundays:



May 7 - 1st Corinthians 12:12-20, 26-27 - "The Holy Spirit Forms the Church"

May 14 - John 14:15-21, 25-27 - "The Holy Spirit Engages Us with the Word"

May 21 - Philippians 1:19-30 - "The Holy Spirit Enables the Work of Faith"

May 28 - Pentecost Sunday – Acts 2:22-33 & Psalm 16:1-11

## Notes from the Stated Session Meeting of April 19

The meeting was held on Sunday, April 10 at 6:30 with a quorum of Elders in attendance, and Pastor Connie Weaver as Moderator.

- Approval was given to ordering a new church sign to be placed down on the corner of Hwy. 73 and Hwy. 15-501.
- Vacation Bible School will be June 26 – 30<sup>th</sup>. Once again, it will be done in partnership with Camp Monroe.
- The Monthly Financial Report for March was reviewed and received into the record.
- Approval was given to expanding the Investment Committee's membership from 4 to 5 members.
- The purchase of a new hearing assist system found on Amazon was approved at the last meeting. The Session gave its blessing for the Worship Committee to instead, go with a hearing assist system from Ward Production that will coordinate well with our present sound system.
- A new laptop was donated to the church to assist in the live streaming of our worship service.



### MAY

Dwight Parsons	03
Shirley Shields	06
Johnie Marion	06
Josh Aldridge	08
Diane Aldridge	09
Reece Parsons	09
Samuel Blue	10
Parker Sims	10
Rebecca Willcox	11
Alston Willcox	11
Mark Nuzzo	11
Alex Prince	13
Anna Gallant	13
Larry Koster	13
Ella Vest	14
JoAnn Cameron	14
Emily Adams	15
Will Cuff	15

Duncan Fowler	15
Emily Craven	16
Gail Farmer	18
Griffin Clayton	18
Adrian Parsons	19
Darrell Cole	19
Brian Gribben	19
Evan Rivas	21
Aidan Palmerton	22
Rick Mathews	22
Mike Marion	23
Layton Barber	24
H.W. Frye	26
Rev. Jane Love	26
Stan Shields	26
Matt Gribben	26
Lauren Stone Garner	28
Dennis Fortune	31

### JUNE

John David Privott	01
Alexander Privott	01
Jaiden Washington	01
Jackson Moricle	01
Inglis Fowler	02
Jared Rivas	03
Linda Upole	03
Rusty Oakman	04
Connie Barber	05
Gregg Vest	05
Richard Blue	06
Fairley Cameron	07
Danielle Pate	08
Wade Garner	10
Leslie Stubbs	10
Cathy Salargo	12
Lib Burgess	18
Wayne Burgess	18

Norman Shields	19
Taylor Seawell	20
Linda Gallant	21
Mills Hodge	25
Wayne Black	25
Corey Curlee	26
Dustin Thamm	28
Jennifer Parsons	28
Logan Parsons	30



### Attention **Culdee Presbyterian Men.**

We will meet on  
Thursday, May 25, 7:00 PM for a  
meal and meeting.  
Let Wade Garner know if you can



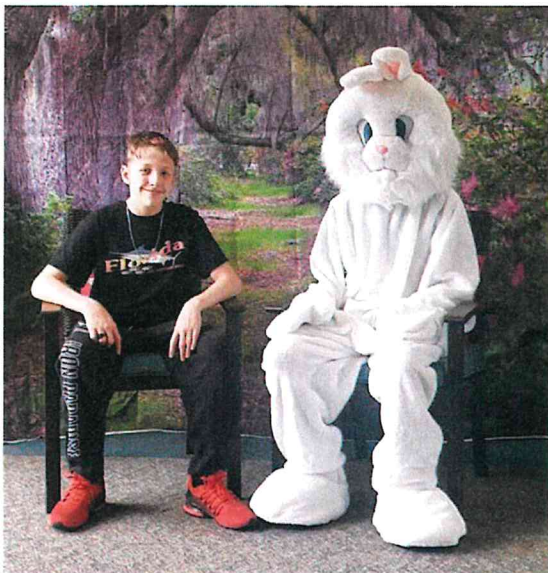
*Ladies luncheon on Monday, **March 27<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 am at Olive Garden. Fun and fellowship*



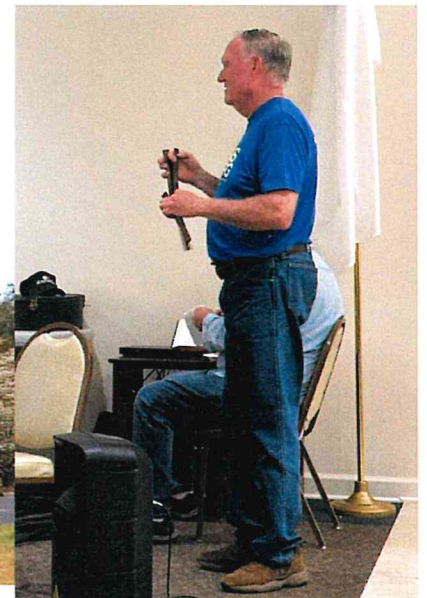
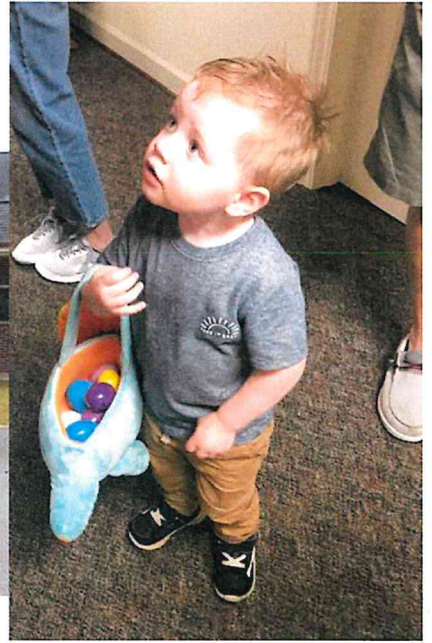
## Christian Education Ministry

April 2023

On **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrated a **Community Fun Day**. Although it was a rainy day, we had 150 church and community friends in attendance. Although it was a rainy Saturday, the rain did not interfere. In fact, it may have enhanced our time of fellowship. Adults lingered in the fellowship hall talking, singing, and listening to music. The children enjoyed the Easter Bunny, indoor sack races and Easter Egg hunts. Many groups contributed to the success of this day, and we are so thankful for your help!









## Christian Education Ministry Continued:

Our **Sunday Funday** was on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** from 4pm – 6 pm. It was a “Rematch” competition. Last time, Rosten’s team was declared the winner, so the rest of the teams were ready for revenge! Hopefully, more youth will join our fun in the future. Invite others! Our time consists of games, fellowship, food, worship, and song. It is always an action-packed two hours.

It is time to begin planning for our **VBS** beginning **June 26<sup>th</sup> and ending June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Once again, we will partner with Camp Monroe. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the camp will be at Culdee from 9-1. On Thursday, we will transport the campers to Camp Monroe for the overnight camping experience. There will be swimming, canoeing, zipline, obstacle course, and Banana Olympics at night as well as worship time. It is more than they can do in twenty-four hours! We will return on Friday afternoon. Those not wishing to spend the night will be transported home and returned on Friday. There will be no cost to parents, but we have only twenty-five spots.

If you want to **help** with VBS this year, we have two ways.

1. **Sponsor** a youth for the week (\$65 covers the entire cost of the counselors and camping night)
2. We will **serve** lunches at church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. If your group would like to help with lunch one day, please see one of the Christian Ed Team.

We will also be working with our Outreach committee to attend the **Camp Monroe Volunteer Day on May 20<sup>th</sup>**. In preparation for the Summer Camps, they have a list of projects for volunteers. These projects include folding t-shirts, cleaning, painting, yard work, pressure washing canoes, and more! There is a job for all levels of capability. We will leave Culdee at 8:30, enjoy the lunch provided for us and return by 1:30. It is a great day of fellowship together as well as experiencing the joy of serving. Make plans to join us!!!

As always, Culdee Family, we thank you for your continued support!!

Marshall Sweat, Darrell Cole, Patti Burke

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Our **Senior Banquet** will be held on **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** following our worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Congregational Care will be heading up the **Country Store** at our Harvest Festival in October. We need our creative and crafty folks to start working on projects now. If you have an idea to share or a craft you would like to teach, please let us know. Gardens are being planted for our canned goods, potted plants are getting started....we need everyone’s help.

In the past some of our members have brought up the need for replacing the signage at the intersection of highway 15-501 and highway 73. Good news! Our Session approved the purchase of a new sign and it has been delivered.

## Culdee Presbyterian Church

916 NC Highway 73 • West End, NC



[www.CuldeeChurch.net](http://www.CuldeeChurch.net)

Visual for Banners  
to be hung



## Finance Ministry: Chairman Tim Lea & Vice Chair Shannon Bullard

**Proverbs 27:23** *Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,  
and attend to your herds.*

Welcome:

The Finance Ministry welcomes its new Vice Chair and Newsletter author, Shannon Bullard. Her financial background will be a great asset to Culdee. Welcome to the team!

Culdee Financial Review and Processes:

As the year moves forward, so does the Finance Ministry members' desire to be pro-active. As mentioned within the last newsletter, the Finance Ministry is moving towards automated financial processes. The great news is that payroll is now automated so checks will be direct deposited effective April 15, 2023 at a total Session-approved expense of \$30.00 per month. Still to come is online BillPay. Not only is this a time saver but a money saver as well.

A special thanks to Ann Savage for getting the required documents to Sandhills Accounting for our 2022 Financial Review. The Annual Report reconciling Culdee's financial records will be ready in early May 2023 for review.



We must give a special thank you to an anonymous donor who has made it possible for Culdee Presbyterian Church to now own the refrigeration unit that was used last year for Culdee's annual Harvest Festival and Auction. How exciting is this! With the Chicken and Dumplings coming back this year for the October 21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival, this refrigeration unit is vital and will allow the process to run smoothly.

As you begin your spring cleaning, please keep in mind that Culdee is looking for auction items. They can be treasures from your home or you can help by seeking donated items. It's never too early... to start gathering these items so inventory can begin.

Finance Ministry Member Goals:

During the last Finance Ministry meeting held on April 10, 2023, members spoke openly about the goals they would like to see accomplished in the coming year which included:

Working together for the betterment of all

Transparency

To help others who have doubts about what the Finance Ministry is all about understand and to educate them and invite those who want, to come to the meetings.

Show appreciation to one another for the volume and amount of time that is required to make it all work.

Although Pastor Connie is not a member of Finance but attended as ex officio, she shared her hope that we at Culdee can put our focus on the future, rather than on any problems of the past. It is the hope of the Finance Ministry that these goals will be shown through the actions taken on Culdee's behalf. Please know that the Finance Ministry members: Tim Lea, Shannon Bullard, Ann Savage, Danny Aldridge, Darrell Cole, and Faye Riggsbee are always open to questions and conversation.

Culdee Finance Investments Committee Meets Quarterly:

Culdee's Finance Investments Committee welcomed Bill Eastman CFP® Branch Manager, Senior Vice President of Investments from Stifel's Eastman, Palmer, Davis and Vaughan Wealth Management Group to come and speak about Culdee's current investments at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Eastman helped those who are new to the committee understand Culdee's investments and how Stifel is there to be a champion for growth. He spoke openly about the current economic status and answered all questions asked of him.

There continues to be movement within the stock market, but Eastman assured members that Culdee's investments are conservatively invested as appropriate for a non-profit organization. Reviewed was the fact that Culdee will not lose or gain any value growth until stocks are sold. Investments continue to grow with realized gains.

Your continued support of Culdee is appreciated.





### The Gift of Music

A beautiful gift from the musical heart of Mrs. Virginia Elder was received by the choir last week. She has donated her beloved “La Petite Kimball” Baby grand piano to the choir. Mrs. Elder is so loved by the choir members and her gift was well received at rehearsal Wednesday night. We are so honored that she thought of our choir with this beautiful instrument. It is going to be a wonderful addition to the music department.

You are invited to stop in the choir room and see this beautiful instrument for yourself. What a blessing! Thank you, Virginia, for thinking of our church choir with your wonderful generosity. We will cherish this gift for many years to come. We are honored to be thought of in such a special manner.

### The Culdee Chancel Choir



#### “Always a Joyful Noise”

On Tuesday **May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm** the fellowship hall at Culdee will have a program of “Our all-time favorites”. The program was chosen by the **Joyful Noise** students and should be a delight to share with their audience on this evening. Please plan to attend this special event supporting our Joyful Noise Choir.

### Faure Requiem

The collaborative choirs of several churches throughout Moore County will present the Faure Requiem on Sunday, **May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm**. The concert will be at Brownson Memorial Church in Southern Pines. The choir members have been working on this work for several months now. The concert will also include a chamber orchestra of guest instrumentalists from around NC and 2 wonderful guest soloists. We hope to see you at the concert.



**May 28<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday!**  
**You're invited to wear colors of flame (red, orange, yellow)**  
**as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**





*Culdee Presbyterian Church*

916 HIGHWAY 73, WEST END  
NORTH CAROLINA

*Give thanks to the LORD, call on his  
name; make known among the nations  
what He has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8*

### **Culdee Presbyterian Mission**

Culdee Presbyterian Church will build caring relationships with our local and global community while proclaiming the Word of God and building up our faith community.

Contact Us: Phone (910) 295-6685

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